



Annual - Report

For the Year 1920.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Geo. E. Scholefield, M.B.E.,

M.D., Edin., D.P.H., Vict.

(Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England).

ORMSKIRK :

Printed at the "Advertiser" Office.

MAY, 1921.



West Lancashire Rural District Council.



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M.D., EDIN., D.P.H., VICT.,
Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

West Lancashire Rural District Council, 1920.

Chairman .. HENRY UNDERWOOD.

Vice-Chairman .. JOHN PIMBLEY.

Altcar REV. JOSEPH LLEWELLYN.
Aughton HENRY UNDERWOOD.
,, RICHARD ROTHWELL.
Bickerstaffe RICHARD RIMMER.
,, THOMAS HEYES.
Bispham THOMAS ASPINWALL.
Downholland JOB SUMNER.
Halsall JOHN HARRISON.
Hesketh WILLIAM IDDON.
Lydiat PETER LOVELADY.
Maghull JOHN PIMBLEY.
Melling RICHARD SUMNER.
North Meols WILLIAM CAUNCE.
Rufford JAMES CAUNCE.
Scarisbrick BERNARD H. HOLMAN.
,, PETER RIMMER.
Simonswood WILLIAM LEDSON.
Tarleton ROBERT LATHAM.



Annual Report for 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Twenty-third Annual Report, dealing with the Vital Statistics, the Public Health, and the Sanitary work of the District during the year 1920.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General estimates this at 20,032 for both Birth-rate and Death-rate. This is 35 less than that for the Birth-rate of 1919, and 158 more than that for the Death-rate for 1919.

BIRTH-RATE.—The number of Births registered belonging to the District was 433, an increase of 74 over the number for the previous year. Two hundred and seven were boys and 226 were girls. This gives an Annual Birth-rate of 21·6 per 1000 of the estimated population, which is 3·8 above that for 1919, and 2·4 above the average of the 10 preceding years. Nineteen Births were illegitimate, which is 4·4 per cent. of the total number of Births.

DEATH-RATE.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 204, and after adding those that occurred in other districts, who were residents in West Lancashire, and deducting non-residents, the net total was 219, of which 107 were males and 112 females. This gives an *Annual Death-rate* of 10·9 per 1000 of the population, which is 5·9 below that for 1919, and 2·1 below the average of the 10 preceding years.

EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.—Sixteen Deaths were due to the principal Epidemic Diseases, which gives an *Epidemic Death-rate* of $\cdot 79$ per 1,000, which is $\cdot 43$ above that for 1919, and $\cdot 13$ above the average of the 10 preceding years. Three of the deaths were due to Measles, five to Whooping Cough and eight to Diphtheria.

INFANTILE MORTALITY-RATE.—Twenty-two deaths of children under one year of age were registered, which gives an Annual Infantile Mortality-rate of 50 per 1000 Births, which is 36 less than that for 1919, and 33 below the average of the 10 preceding years. Two of the deaths were of illegitimate children, which is 9 per cent. of the total Infantile Deaths.

Commenting on the deaths due to some of the other diseases, 16 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis with a rate of $\cdot 79$, which is $\cdot 12$ above that for 1919, and $\cdot 11$ above the average of the 10 preceding years; six were due to Influenza, a rate of $\cdot 29$ against $3\cdot 9$ for the preceding year; 28 to Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases, with a rate of $1\cdot 39$, that for 1919 being $2\cdot 3$; 21 to Heart Diseases, with a rate of $1\cdot 04$ against that for 1919 of $1\cdot 6$; Cancer had 23 deaths, while in the previous year there were 22.

The table following compares the foregoing rates with those for England and Wales.

DEATHS AND OTHER RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
AND THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.

	Birth-rate per 1000 living.	Death-rate per 1000 living.	Epidemic Death-rate per 1000 living.	Infant Mortality per 1000 Births.
England and Wales ..	25·4	12·4	—	80
West Lancashire Rural District	21·6	10·9	·79	50

The figures under Epidemic Death-Rate do not include deaths due to Diarrhœa.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Including notifiable and non-notifiable, 612 cases of Infectious Disease came to my knowledge during 1920, in 453 different houses. This is an increase of 416 over the number for the previous year, the increase being accounted for in the number of cases of Measles and of Whooping Cough in excess of that of 1919, there being 409 more cases of Measles and 33 more of Whooping Cough. There were 18 fewer cases of Pneumonia notified. In addition to the cases notified by medical practitioners, school teachers reported 369 cases of Measles and 29 of Whooping Cough ; school attendance officers, seven of Measles ; parents, 22 of Measles and one of Diphtheria ; registrars, three of Whooping Cough ; and inquiry brought out one of Diphtheria, and one of Whooping Cough.

SCARLET FEVER.

Houses Infected, 24. Cases, 28.

There were four more cases than in the previous year, but at no time was there any appearance of the disease taking on an epidemic character. The townships affected were :—Altcar, four houses, four cases ; Aughton, five houses, six cases ; Bickerstaffe, one house, two cases ; Downholland, one house, two cases ; Halsall, two houses, two cases ; Lydiate, three houses, three cases ; Maghull, two houses, two cases ; Scarisbrick, six houses, seven cases.

DIPHTHERIA.

Houses infected, 45. Cases, 51. Deaths, 8.

There was one more case than in the previous year, the disease being very prevalent more or less throughout the year, and the number of cases being much above the average. Aughton was again the township which suffered most, though the influence of attendance at school was less marked than in the previous year. The cases occurred in the following townships :—
Aughton, nineteen houses, twenty-two cases, two deaths ; Bickerstaffe, six houses, six cases ; Halsall, two houses, two cases ; Maghull, one house, one case ; Melling, five houses,

seven cases, three deaths ; North Meols, five houses, five cases, one death ; Scarisbrick, six houses, six cases, one death ; Tarleton, one house, two cases, one death. The number of deaths, eight, was above the average, and in the case of five of them, the disease had made such progress before being seen by a medical man, that they were beyond hope, the parents not having recognised the seriousness of the illness.

MEASLES.

Houses Infected, 331. Cases, 424. Deaths, 3.

This disease was prevalent during the greater part of the first half of the year. Banks, Tarleton, Melling, Hesketh, and Bickerstaffe, being the townships which suffered most. The most serious outbreaks occurred during the months of April, May, June and July, which probably accounts to some extent for the low mortality. I considered it advisable to close the Melling C.E. School, St. Stephen's School, and the Primitive Methodist School, Banks ; Holy Trinity, Tarleton, and Rufford C.E.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Houses Infected, 28. Cases, 37. Deaths, 5.

Was more prevalent than in the previous year, and was the cause of five deaths. Rufford C.E. School was closed during part of October and November, on account of the number of cases in the township.

ERYSIPELAS.

Houses Infected, 8. Cases, 8. Death, 1.

One death occurred from this disease, the seat of the illness being the face.

MALARIA.

Houses Infected, 5. Cases, 5.

In all cases the disease had in the first instance been contracted abroad.

DYSENTERY.

A death was registered as being due to this disease, but as the case was not notified by the medical attendant nor by the Registrar, otherwise than in his monthly return, I was unable to have a sample of the patient's fæces examined in order to determine the correctness of the diagnosis. On inquiry I found that the patient had not been abroad, and that she had resided in the neighbourhood for many years, and had not suffered in any like manner during her life. After a conversation with the medical attendant, I considered that the case was probably one of very severe Diarrhœa.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-three cases of Tuberculosis were notified. Seventeen were pulmonary, and six in other parts of the body. There were six deaths from the affection where the seat of disease was the respiratory organs, and five where it was in other regions.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases of this disease were notified. Both were mild and recovered without any opacity being left behind.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 31 cases in 29 houses notified, with 12 deaths. The cases were fewer, but the case mortality was higher than in the previous year.

There were no cases of Small-pox during the year, neither were there any cases of Enteric Fever.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

All houses in which cases of an infectious nature are known to exist, whether notified by medical men or not, are visited, an endeavour being made to discover the source of the infection and frequently much valuable information is gained, and other cases are often brought to light.

Instructions are given to the householders regarding the precautions that should be taken to prevent, if possible, further spread of the disease, and a copy of the " Rules and Regulations to be observed in the Management of Infectious Diseases " is left at the house, and should the disease be Scarlet Fever, an additional leaflet is left, drawing attention to the responsibilities and liabilities of parents in regard to the notification and the prevention of the spread of the disease. The leaflets are also distributed among the parents of children who are attending a school in which cases of Scarlet Fever have occurred. It is not unusual for parents to consider that a mild attack of Scarlet Fever is Measles, and in this way much mischief is done by the patient being allowed to mix with other children while in an infectious state. Leaflets giving information regarding Measles are also, when necessary, supplied to school teachers for distribution.

Izal is supplied in all cases by the Inspector to persons in whose houses there are cases of infectious disease, if application is made for it.

At the termination of all cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis and Small-pox, the hospital porter proceeds to the house, and thoroughly disinfects the rooms where the patients have been, removing to Holly House for steam disinfection everything that may require it.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

" Holly House," Aughton, formerly a country residence, was acquired by the District Council, and after alterations had been made so as to provide accommodation for eight Scarlet Fever and two Enteric Fever cases, it was opened for the admission of patients on February 9th, 1897. Attached to the establishment is a " Thresh " Steam Disinfecter, and there is also a Brougham Ambulance and Bedding Van. Along with the house there are four acres of land.

A new Pavilion was opened in July, 1902, for the reception of cases of Scarlet Fever.

Two new small wards were added at the beginning of 1911, giving accommodation for 6 more patients. At the same time some much-needed accommodation for the resident staff was provided.

The Urban District of Croston, the Urban District of Skelmersdale, and the Ormskirk Guardians (for the Workhouse and Schools) have agreements with the Council by which they can send patients to the hospital.

The following is a summary of the work done at the hospital during the year :—On January 1st there were seven cases of Scarlet Fever and nine cases of Diphtheria in hospital, and during the year there were admitted 33 cases of Scarlet Fever and 47 cases of Diphtheria, making 80 in all.

The cases were from the following townships :—Scarlet Fever : Altcar 4, Aughton 6, Bickerstaffe 2, Downholland 2, Halsall 1, Lydiate 3, Maghull 2, Scarisbrick 7, and 6 were admitted from Croston. Diphtheria : Aughton 23, Bickerstaffe 5, Halsall 1, Melling 6, Maghull 1, North Meols 3, Scarisbrick 6, Tarleton 2.

Thirty-four cases of Scarlet Fever and 48 of Diphtheria were discharged, and there were six deaths due to Diphtheria.

Ninety-six per cent. of the ascertained cases of Scarlet Fever in the District were admitted to hospital, and 92 per cent. of the cases Diphtheria.

The average length of residence in hospital of those suffering from Scarlet Fever was six weeks and five days, and of those suffering from Diphtheria, five weeks and six days. The average of those who died was four days.

The average number of cases in hospital per week was 11·9, the highest number at any one time being 18, and the lowest 3.

The outside work done was as follows:—71 journeys with the ambulance, 103 with the bedding van, and 58 by cycle; 275 rooms have been disinfected in 120 houses; the disinfectant has been used 90 times, and 3019 articles were disinfected. Included in the above were six journeys with the ambulance and 22 with the bedding van to Croston; 22 rooms in nine houses were disinfected, and the disinfectant was used 11 times. To Skelmersdale there were 14 journeys with the van, the disinfectant was used seven times for 126 articles.

The house and grounds under the Matron's supervision, have been kept in good order.

BACTERIOLOGY.

One hundred and eighteen swabs from throats and noses were sent away to be examined and reported upon. Fifty-six of these were positive, 59 negative, and three were sterile. Three specimens of blood were sent, one of which was feebly positive, and the other two were negative to Typhoid and Para-typhoid reaction. A sample of water was sent from premises on which a person died, the cause being registered as Dysentery, *Bacillus Coli* were found.

SCHOOLS.

There are 23 Elementary Schools in the District. All are supplied with water from public service. The sanitary arrangements are on the whole satisfactory, only 2 being connected with main sewers.

EXCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

When cases of infectious disease appear in a school, attempts are made in the first instance to prevent the disease

spreading, by not only excluding the patient, but also all other members of the family, and any other children who have been directly exposed to infection ; in this way the outbreak is frequently limited to a few cases, and it is unnecessary to close the school. Exception to the foregoing rule is sometimes made in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough, where those who have been exposed to infection have already had the disease.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

The following schools were closed for the periods and diseases mentioned :—

Melling Church of England from January 26th until February 23rd, on account of Measles.

St. Stephen's, Banks, from April 26th until May 17th, on account of Measles.

Primitive Methodist School, Banks, June 2nd to June 21st, on account of Measles.

Holy Trinity, Tarleton, the infant department from June 6th until June 21st, and the whole school from the latter date until July 5th, on account of Measles.

Rufford School, from July 8th to 16th, on account of Measles, and from October 20th until November 8th, on account of Whooping Cough.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Although containing an area of 61,600 acres, the physical features of the District do not vary very much. The township of North Meols which lies to the West, is flat and low, with sluggish natural drainage. The greater part of the several townships of Altcar, Downholland, Halsall, Hesketh, Lydiate, Maghull, Scarisbrick, and Tarleton are also low and flat, but with slight undulations in places ; while Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Bispham, Melling, Rufford, and Simonswood are all more or less undulating. At no part, however, is the altitude over 300 feet above sea level.

The population very largely consists of farmers and people connected with the farming industry. Aughton, Maghull, Scarisbrick and Tarleton, have, in addition, a considerable number of residents who are engaged in business in Liverpool, Preston, Southport, and other towns.

SEWERING AND DRAINING.

AUGHTON.—In this township about three-fourths of the houses are connected with the system of sewers. The sewage from the southern watershed is carried to outfall works at the south-west of the township, where it is treated with Alumino-Ferric, and allowed to settle in four open tanks from which it flows on to land for treatment by downward filtration. Good results are still got from that portion of the land which is covered with clinkers and cinders. The sewage from the northern watershed is, by agreement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council, received into the sewers of that place, and is carried to outfall works in Scarisbrick.

BICKERSTAFFE.—A small portion of this township which lies close to Ormskirk is, by agreement, connected with the sewers of the Urban District Council.

CESSPOOL SYSTEM.

In the great part of the District this system, with its attendant disadvantages, is the only available means of dealing with the sewage. In the more sparsely populated parts of the District where land is sufficient for the purpose, with ordinary care, a cesspool does not become a nuisance; but if the amount of land is insufficient, or the people are careless a nuisance quickly arises. There has been this difficulty in past years in Banks, and many nuisances have been caused, some of which have been very difficult to remedy, but I am now pleased to report that arrangements have been made to empty all cesspools that are liable to become a nuisance, by contract, the Council providing a specially constructed cart for the purpose.

HOUSE DRAINS.

Throughout the District generally these are fairly satisfactory. Inspections are continually being made, and defects as found, are remedied ; the report of the Inspector, which follows, showing the work done in that department.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

In Aughton where there is a system of sewerage, excrement is largely disposed of by water carriage ; also many of the larger houses in other parts of the District have water carriage from the house, but with the exception of a few houses in Tarleton, which are in close proximity to a tidal river, the connection is with a cesspool. The majority of the rest are provided with privy ashpits, built on a plan which some years ago was approved by the Local Government Board's Inspectors and is as satisfactory as anything of the kind can be. Old fashioned deep privy middens are still found in the course of inspection, but are growing less in number year by year.

There are approximately in the whole District 3281 privy middens, 693 water closets, 429 pail closets, and 30 waste water closets. There are 1016 dry ashpits, and 82 portable receptacles for refuse. During the year, two privy middens and two privy ashpits have been converted into pail closets.

SCAVENGING.

In Aughton and North Meols scavenging is done by contract with satisfactory results. In the other parts of the District householders have to make their own arrangements for the removal of the refuse.

A reference to the Inspector's report will show the amount of work done during the year in this department.

FOOD.

The milk supply has been better in quantity than in the previous year, and on the whole good in quality. One farmer was fined £2 and costs for selling adulterated milk

at Maghull. The Foods and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Police, and I am indebted to Superintendent Crapper, of Ormskirk, for the above information, and also for the facts that 32 other samples were taken in that part of the district which is in the West Derby Hundred, and to Superintendent Marshall, of Chorley, for the information that four samples of milk and eight samples of other foods were taken in the northern townships, no prosecution following.

In addition to the foregoing, Mr. Ainsworth, Inspector for the northern area, found seven tins of preserved fruit in Rufford, which were unfit for use and were destroyed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

There are 46 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the District. Ninety-eight inspections were made, and eight were found to require lime-washing, which was done on request. Two new ones have been registered, and three have been done away with, making one less than in 1919.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been regularly visited, and have been found in a satisfactory condition.

One carcase of meat was examined at the slaughterhouse used by Mr. Richard Haskayne, Aughton. It was condemned as unfit for food.

No carcasses have been found with any evidence of Tuberculosis.

	In 1914.	In Jan. 1920.	In Dec. 1920.
Registered	6	5	5
Licensed	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	7	5	6

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been regularly visited and found satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is, on the whole, well supplied with water of excellent quality. The Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Joint Board acquired two wells in Aughton, another has been sunk in Bickerstaffe, and a fourth has been secured from the Urban District Council of Skelmersdale; and from this Board's service nine townships are more or less supplied. Two receive their supply partially from the Ormskirk Urban District Council, two from the Preston Rural District Council, two from the St. Helens Corporation, and one from the Lathom and Burscough Urban District Council. A reference to the Table following will show the number of houses supplied from each source.

As near as can be ascertained there were at the end of the year 4056 houses supplied with water from the public mains, an increase of 18 over 1919. This is 87.4 per cent. of the inhabited houses in the whole District.

HOUSES SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE END OF 1920.

1920.	Wigan Rural District Council.	Lathom and Burscough Main.	Liverpool Corporation.	Ormskirk Urban District Council.	Preston Rural District Council.	St. Helens Corporation.	Southport Joint Water Board.	TOTALS.	Increase during the year.	Percentage of Inhabited Houses thus supplied.
ALTCAR	59	59	...	61·3
AUGHTON	62	...	...	724	786	3	93·2
BICKERSTAFFE	55	...	...	260	315	...	80·5
BISPHAM	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3·4
DOWNHOLLAND	131	131	..	87·3
HALSALL.....	272	272	...	80·1
HESKETH	260	...	42	302	8	98·5
LYDIATE.....	149	149	2	66·2
MAGHULL	4	288	292	...	93·0
MELLING	1	...	...	210	...	211	...	96·8
NORTH MEOLS	1	...	390	391	...	94·9
RUFFORD	179	...	...	...	...	...	179	...	90·8
SCARISBRICK	6	...	...	...	...	431	437	1	83·5
SIMONSWOOD	49	1	49	...	76·6
TARLETON	481	...	...	481	4	98·7
TOTALS FOR } DISTRICT	2	185	1	117	742	263	2746	4056	18	87·4

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Staff consists of two Inspectors of Nuisances, the District being divided for convenience of administration into Northern and Southern areas.

From the Table appended it will be seen that they dealt with 284 nuisances, making 517 inspections. Two hundred and forty-one were abated, 174 without service of notice. In 63 cases informal notices were served, 58 being complied with, and four cases required statutory notices, two being complied with at the end of the year.

A summary of the work done by them in each township is appended.

The Authority has adopted the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, and the Public Health Acts Amendment Acts of 1890 and 1907.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

There were 122 Workshops at the end of the year, a decrease of four. Four new ones have been registered, seven have been transferred, and eight have been closed. Want of cleanliness was found in 10 cases, and notices were served in two cases in order to get the work done.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ON WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, ETC.

1.—INSPECTIONS—Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices	Number of Prosecutions.
Factories	—	—	—
Workshops	270	5	—
Workplaces.....	—	—	—
Homeworkers' prem. ..	---	—	—
Total	270	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars of Defects.	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	Reported to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness .	10	10	—	—
Want of ventilation .	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Total	10	10	—	—

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	9
Basketmakers	15
Blacksmiths	27
Boatbuilders	1
Dressmakers	9
Joiners	4
Saddlers	2
Shoemakers and Cloggers	20
Tailors	7
Wheelwrights	25
Laundry	1
Tinsmith	1
Motor Engineer	1
Total	122

HOUSING.

The number of houses in the District as given to me by the Assistant Overseers at the end of 1920 was 4612, and of this number about 3300 will come in the category of working-class houses.

There is a shortage of houses in the District which has been estimated at 350, and originally the Council had a scheme for building that number. This scheme was, however, modified to some extent by the fact that the Astland Mill Company, Tarleton, took over the scheme for Tarleton, which reduced the Council's scheme by 60 houses. This left the Council's scheme at the end of the year to be 290 houses, but in view that houses are being erected by private

persons to a greater extent than at one time appeared to be likely, it is very probable that the number to be built by the Council may be considerably reduced.

There is nothing further to report this year on the subject of overcrowding, the condition being much as in 1919, and until there are more houses erected by the Council or by private owners there can be little amelioration of the conditions as reported last year.

The general standard of the houses in the District is fairly good except in the older class of house, where there is no damp course. The defects in the unfit houses chiefly consist of damp, and dilapidations caused by damp, in others the walls and wood work are giving either through age or poor workmanship.

Under the Public Health Act, 1875, 23 orders to execute works were served, 12 were remedied without the service of notice, 38 defective houses were put in order without closing orders, and at the end of the year work was proceeding at 14 others.

The process of remedying unfitness in houses is slow, owing to difficulty in procuring labour, and to the high cost of repairs generally.

The conditions regarding water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal are set out on pages 12, 13, 15 and 16.

Two small portions of the township of North Meols are scheduled as unhealthy areas on account of the houses at some time having been divided into two, although originally built for single dwellings.

Twenty-four houses have been provided for the working-class, 19 being new, and five by altering existing buildings.

One representation was made to the Council that a house in Melling was in such a condition as to be unfit for human habitation, and the owners were called upon to show cause why a Closing Order should not be made; as there were several persons interested, their representative asked for time to have the house examined by their own architect, and this was granted.

Appended is the Tabular Statement of the Causes of Death.

A Table of the cases of Infectious Disease.

Report of the Inspectors of Nuisances and Tables.

Tables on the Housing Conditions and of the work done.

Annual Report on Canal Boats.

A Table showing the building, etc., operation during the year, kindly supplied by the Chief Surveyor, Mr. R. Rosbotham.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,

Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT, 1920.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	107	112
Measles	3	—
Whooping Cough	4	1
Diphtheria and Croup	4	4
Influenza	4	2
Erysipelas	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	13
Rheumatic Fever	—	1
Meningitis	—	2
Organic Heart Disease	11	10
Bronchitis	5	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	—	2
Congenital Debility, &c.	2	6
Violence, apart from Suicide	6	4
Other defined Diseases	36	36
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age—		
Legitimate	9	11
Illegitimate	—	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	207	226
Legitimate	199	215
Illegitimate	8	11
POPULATION (For Births and Deaths)		20,032

Table showing the number of Houses in each Township and in the whole District known to be Infected during the year, and the numbers of Cases and Deaths.

1920.	TOWNSHIP.	Pneumonia.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Membranous Group.			Enteric Fever.			Measles.			Whooping Cough.			Epidemic Diarrhoea.			Erysipelas.			Puerperal Fever.			Malaria.			Totals.		
		H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.			
	ALTCAR.....	1	1		4	4							1	2		1	1													7	8			
	AUGHTON.....	12	12	5	5	6		19	22	2			20	23		3	3	4												62	69	11		
	BICKERSTAFFE.....	2	2	2	1	2		6	6				50	65																60	76	3		
	BISPHAM.....																																	
	DOWNHOLLAND.....				1	2																												
	HALSALL.....			2	2	2		2	2				3	4		2														10	11	2		
	HESKETH.....												29	41																29	41			
	LYDIATE.....	3	3		3	3							14	15																22	23			
	MAGHULL.....	3	3		2	2		1	1				19	21																26	28			
	MELLING.....	3	5	1				5	7	3			35	45																44	58	4		
	NORTH MEOLS.....			1				5	5	1			106	133	1	3														114	142	3		
	RUFFORD.....	1	1										13	19		20	28													35	49			
	SCARISBRICK.....	4	4	1	6	7		6	6	1																				18	19	3		
	SIMONSWOOD.....												2	2																2	2			
	TARLETON.....			1				1	2	1			19	54	1															41	57	3		
	WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT	29	31	13	24	28		45	51	8			331	424	2	37	5						8	8	1	2	2			5	5	472	586	29

TABLE SHOWING ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES, &c.,
IN THE DIFFERENT TOWNSHIPS.

Township.	Houses completed.	Alterations, &c.	Drainage.
Altcar	2	—	—
Aughton	4	12	—
Bickerstaffe	—	—	1
Halsall	1	1	—
Hesketh	10	3	—
Lydiate	—	3	—
Maghull	—	1	1
Melling	—	2	—
North Meols	—	2	—
Rufford	1	3	1
Scarisbrick	4	4	1
Tarleton	6	2	—
	—	—	—
Totals	28	33	4
	—	—	—

Twenty-four of the above were working-class dwellings, one a mill at Tarleton, and one a cinema hall at Tarleton.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	20,032
(2) General death-rate	10·9
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	·79
(4) Infantile mortality	50
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes ..	4,612
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses ..	3,300
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected ..	24

2.—UNFIT DWELLINGHOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	426
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	426
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	171

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	27
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	23
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	50
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS ON NUISANCES FOR THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To Dr. G. E. Scholefield

(Medical Officer of Health).

Dear Sir,

We have great pleasure in submitting our Annual Report for the whole district, as to the number of matters dealt with under the various Acts relating to Public Health during the year 1920.

ALTCAR.

Registered workshops	1
Workshops transferred under the Factory Acts ..	1
Schools visited	1
Total number of inspections	5

AUGHTON.

Number of nuisances dealt with	67
Number of notices served	20
Number of notices complied with	17
Number of nuisances abated without service of notices	24
Water certificates granted (Public Health (Water) Act, 1878)	2
Houses supplied with water (Public Health Act, 1875)	1
Drains tested	3
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	5
Limewashing required	3
Registered slaughter-houses	3
Registered Workshops	14

Scavenging—number of receptacles emptied	..	..	4697
Schools visited	..	..	2
Carcases condemned	..	..	1
Total number of inspections made	..	..	233

BICKERSTAFFE.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	27
Number of notices served	..	..	4
Number of notices complied with	..	..	4
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	1
Lime-washing required	..	..	1
Registered Workshops	..	..	10
Schools visited	..	..	1
Total number of inspections made	..	..	74

BISPHAM.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	4
Number of notices served	..	..	1
Number of notices complied with	..	..	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	1
Registered Workshops	..	..	7
Schools visited	..	..	1
Total number of inspections made	..	..	23

DOWNHOLLAND.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	3
Registered Workshops	..	..	3
Schools visited	..	..	1
Total number of inspections made	..	..	13

HALSALL.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	5
Number of notices served	..	..	2
Number of notices complied with	..	..	2
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	7
Registered Workshops	..	..	7
Schools visited	..	..	1
Total number of inspections	..	..	60

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	16
Number of notices served	..	..	..	4
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	4
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	3
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	10
Water certificates granted (Public Health (Water) Act, 1878)	..	..	..	8
Schools visited	..	..	..	1
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	60

LYDIATE.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	4
Number of notices served	..	..	..	4
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	4
Houses supplied with water (Public Health Act, 1875)				2
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	1
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	9
Schools visited	..	..	..	2
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	40

MAGHULL.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	43
Number of notices served	..	..	..	7
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	7
Drains tested	..	..	..	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	3
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	10
Registered Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	2
Schools visited	..	..	..	2
Carcases examined and found in good condition	..			6
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	78

MELLING.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	60
Number of notices served	..	..	..	9
Number of notices served previous year, and not complied with	..	..	..	7

Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	15
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	1
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	2
Schools visited	..	..	..	2
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	114

NORTH MEOLS (RURAL).

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	34
Number of notices served	..	..	..	5
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	3
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	12
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	8
Schools visited	..	..	..	2
Scavenging (number of receptacles emptied), making 658 loads	..	..	..	3730
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	79

RUFFORD.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	6
Number of notices served	..	..	..	1
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	3
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	12
Schools inspected	..	..	..	2
Food inspection—tins of fruit	..	..	..	7
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	51

SCARISBRICK.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	11
Number of notices served	..	..	..	4
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	4
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	4
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	11
Water certificates granted (Public Health (Water) Act, 1878)	..	..	..	1
Schools inspected	..	..	..	3
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	61

SIMONSWOOD.

Registered Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	4

TARLETON.

Number of nuisances dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	19
Number of notices served	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	5
Registered Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	16
Slaughter-house—licensed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Water certificates granted (Public Health (Water) Act, 1878)	..	..	..	..	..	4
Schools inspected	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	91

We are,

Yours faithfully,

T. G. H. HUNTER.

JAS. AINSWORTH.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES DURING THE YEAR 1920.

1920.	Nuisances from various causes.	Nuisances abated.	Inspections made.	Drains tested.	Water samples for analyses.	Water supplies under PHA, 1875, & PHWA, 1878	Registered Slaughter-houses.	Dairies, Cowsheds, &c.	Inspections made.	Factory and Workshops	Inspections made.	Scavenging—Receptacles emptied.	Preliminary Notices served.	Complied with.	Statutory Notices served	Complied with.	Schools inspected.	Carcasses inspected.	Carcasses condemned.
ALTCAR.....	67	61	152	3	..	3	3	5	13	1	33	4,697	19	17	1	..	1	1	..
AUGHTON	27	21	49	..	..	..	..	1	3	14	22	..	4	4	..	..	2	..	..
BICKERSTAFFE.....	4	4	5	..	..	..	..	1	2	7	15	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
BISPHAM	3	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
DOWNHOLLAND.....	5	5	11	..	..	..	..	7	14	7	14	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
HALSALL	16	12	23	..	..	8	..	3	6	10	22	..	4	4	..	..	1	..	..
HESKETH BANK	4	3	13	..	..	2	..	1	3	9	23	..	4	3	1	..	2	6	..
LYDIATE.....	43	41	49	1	..	..	2	3	5	10	23	..	7	7	..	..	2	..	..
MAGHULL.....	60	45	104	..	1	..	..	1	2	2	6	..	9	9	2	..	2	..	..
MELLING.....	19	13	34	..	..	..	..	12	24	8	17	3,730	5	3	..	..	2	..	..
NORTH MEOLS	6	5	12	..	..	..	..	3	6	12	28	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..
RUFFORD.....	11	11	29	..	..	1	..	4	8	11	20	..	4	4	..	..	3	..	..
SCARISBRICK.....	19	17	31	..	..	4	1	5	12	2	34	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..
SIMONSWOOD.....																			
TARLETON																			
TOTALS.....	284	241	517	4	1	18	6	46	98	122	270	8,427	63	58	4	2	24	7	1

We beg to thank you for favours received through the Year.

Yours truly,

T. G. H. HUNTER, }
JAS. AINSWORTH, } Sanitary Inspectors.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS, 1909-19.

1920.	Altcar	Aughton	Bickerstaffe	Bispham	Downholland	Halsall	Hesketh Bank	Lydiate	Maghull	Melling	North Meols	Rufford	Scarisbrick	Simonswood	Tarleton	TOTALS
Houses referred by M.O.H. to Local Authority .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses inspected by Sanitary Inspector	63	52	8	...	12	2	147	...	32	37	...	61	10	...	2	426
Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector	63	94	8	...	12	2	155	...	58	37	...	68	10	...	2	509
Houses represented as unfit for human habitation .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses fit for habitation but more or less defective	33	26	...	...	5	...	51	...	19	12	...	18	6	...	1	171
Defects remedied without Closing Orders .....	...	9	...	...	...	...	2	...	23	...	...	4	...	...	...	38
Defects in course of being remedied without Closing Orders .....	...	7	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	14
Defects remedied after Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Closing Orders determined .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orders to execute work under Section 15 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orders to execute work under Public Health Act, 1875	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	...	...	...	...	...	23
Remedied without service of notice ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	1	...	4	...	...	...	12
Houses closed by Owner in lieu of remedying defects ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses demolished .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANAL BOATS
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The method of Inspection usually adopted by the Inspector is to board a boat when on a voyage, as at that time the occupants are unprepared for his visit, but he also inspects boats that he finds tied up.

Mr. T. G. H. Hunter, 24, Small Lane, Ormskirk, is the Inspector; he receives no special remuneration for this work.

Thirty boats were inspected during the year, and it was noticed that on the whole the condition of them, both as to repairs and as to cleanliness was much improved, special efforts in that direction having apparently been made during the year.

There were FIVE infringements of the Act and Regulations—in three cases there was no certificate on board; in one the registered number was not painted on the boat; in another the certificate did not correspond with the name of the owner painted on the boat.

Four notices were served and complied with.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

No cases of Infectious Disease were found on any boat.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health

T. G. H. HUNTER,

Inspector of Canal Boats.



